



## SASEB

### Smokejumper Aircraft Screening and Evaluation Board

## SASEB Meeting

9 December 2004

Portland, OR

### Attendees:

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## **Agenda Items:**

- Review '03 and 4-'04 meeting notes
- NBAA Report
- Oshkosh Report
- Casa 235 Sponsor Report (WO Aviation)
- New agenda topics
- Review Approved Aircraft list
- Charter review
- Election of Board Members/Chairman

## **Review '03 and 4-'04 meeting notes**

### **Old topics**

#### **-DHC-8**

Ben Hinkle said DeHaviland is willing to modify the aircraft for in-flight jump door but only after purchase due to permanent airframe alteration caused by mod.

#### **-Pilot training video**

Pat Wilson (MTDC) will pool money with Ben Hinkle to produce an on-line training course similar to current SEAT and helicopter courses online instead of developing a video, which would cost prohibitive. Ben said the on-line course will be available next spring.

#### -Standardized Video Camera Mounts

Bud Walters had checked into different camera mounts in use. After some discussion it was decided that regulation of mounts was not SASEB's responsibility.

#### - In-Flight door for Twin Otters

Joe Bussard investigated an in-flight door that the National Guard is using. The door is a bi-fold that folds up to the ceiling and lowers head room by 8". The door is also heavier than the standard Twin Otter door. No interest was expressed in further investigation.

#### -By-laws reviewed

-John Curd reported that the BLM had experimented with a removable step for the Twin Otter. The step worked well but will not be pursued at this time.

## NBAA report

-Ben Hinkle reported on the National Business Aviation Association convention in Las Vegas. A good venue to see what is new out there in the world of aviation. Joe Bussard and Gordon Harris will be SASEB reps at next years NBAA convention in New Orleans, Nov. 15-17, 2005.

## Oshkosh

-Bud Walters set up a booth this year at the Oshkosh with teaching kits. There was lots of interest and support. Would strongly encourage continuing to represent smokejumpers at this convention annually. Send a smokejumper if possible.

## Casa 235 sponsor report (WO aviation)

-Pat Norbury discussed the reasons that the WO was sponsoring the CN-235. There has been direction for a doctrinal change towards smokejumpers being used more for emerging fires and to have aircraft available to transport large numbers of jumpers quickly to those fires. Of smj aircraft currently in use the Sherpas and Twin Otters are considered purpose built but are aging and no longer in production. Neither Boeing (McDonnell Douglas) or Basler are willing to certify the TDC-3 airframe for flying in the fire environment so there is a need to explore new aircraft for possible use in the future. Redding's current contract for a TDC-3 costs \$750,000, which would be comparable to the cost of a new CN-235.

There will be a platform evaluation for the CN-235 in late February or early March in North Carolina. George Jackson will be the test director for the evaluation and will contact base managers to choose two jumpers from each agency and at least one very experienced loadmaster to assist in the evaluation.

Greg Anderson suggested that Pat Wilson and Jim Olson also need to be involved in the evaluation.

A vote was taken on whether or not to continue CN-235 evaluation. Five voted in favor with one abstaining.

Funding for continued evaluation will still com from the WO.

John Curd expressed concern that the change of philosophy for smokejumpers to go toward larger fires and larger aircraft might make them to expensive to use.

## Aircraft Evaluation Plan

-Ben Hinkle made a motion to adopt the new amendments to the Interagency Aircraft Evaluation Plan, dated 10 Nov. 2004. Motion was passed unanimously.

## New Aircraft Suggestions

-John Curd suggested the French made Skyliner. Ben Hinkle said that apparently the consortium that was to produce the aircraft didn't make the time-line and the plane will not be going into production.

-Jim Olson suggested a New Zealand company (unsure of name) that he had heard is building a purpose built skydiving airplane.

-Joe Sannella brought up Don Sands' suggestion of the Shorts 360. Joe Bussard said that they are no longer in production.

-Greg Anderson mentioned the Casa 212 (400 series). Documentation was also submitted to the official SASEB file box on the Dornier 228 being purpose built and that the production rights were sold to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and referred to as HAL-Dornier-228.

-Joe Bussard suggested the Jem Air (sp?) from Malaysia, but mentioned if planes were built in Malaysia they could not be certified in the US.

-Bud Walters inquired into the feasibility of CWN contracts for additional smokejumper aircraft. Gordon Harris said that there used to be CWN contracts but they were not used so they were dropped.

## CRM courses

-Pat Norbury announced two national CRM courses will be held this spring, one on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Boise and another on May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> no location chosen yet. Contact Pat for spots in either course.

## Approved Smokejumper Aircraft

The group voted to re-date the list of approved smokejumper aircraft as of the meeting 9 December 2004. The list includes:

Douglas TDC-3

Beech 90

Beech 99

Beech 200

Dornier 228  
DeHaviland DHC-6, 100, 200 and 300 series  
Casa 212, 100 and 200  
Bandeirante 210  
Shorts C-23, SD-330  
Cessna Grand caravan C-208

## Improvements to existing smj aircraft

-Joe Sannella discussed a propeller upgrade for the TDC-3s which would increase power and performance.

-Greg Anderson mentioned that Big Horn Aviation is upgrading Dornier 228 to dash-ten engines, increasing single engine climb performance. He also mentioned the new 400 series Casa 212.

-Joe Sannella suggested that Twin Otters could upgrade to 2345.

## New Members

-Dalan Romero was nominated and unanimously voted in as the new chair to replace the retiring Greg Anderson.

-John Curd was unanimously voted in as a voting member to replace Dalan's vacant spot.

-Next meeting will be scheduled prior to the smokejumper base managers' meeting; Dalan Romero will check into it and firm up a date.

Scribe: Charles Wetzel